

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for managing risk related to a legal action involving a person, the method comprising:

gathering data into a computer storage, said data relating to the person's involvement in a legal action based upon said person's status comprising at least one of: a party to a litigation, or arbitration; or a prospective party to a litigation or arbitration; or an amicus of the court in a pending litigation;

receiving information into the computer storage relating to the person's status as at least one of a party to a legal action, a prospective party to a legal action, an amicus of the court in a pending legal action, or any combination thereof;

receiving digital information into the computer storage relating to details of at least one legal action;

structuring with a processor the information received according to risk quotient criteria [assessment factors;]

[assigning a risk value to the information structured as risk assessment factors;]

generating a risk quotient with a computer processor operatively attached to the computer storage, the risk quotient comprising at least one of:

a scaled numeric value and a scaled alphanumeric value and based upon the structured information related to a legal action and the gathered data;

[weighing the risk factors according to relative importance; and calculating a risk quotient based upon the weighted risk factors and the risk value.]

2. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of generating a suggested action responsive to the risk quotient.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 additionally comprising the steps of:  
storing [data indicative of] the information received, the risk quotient and the suggested action; and generating a diligence report comprising the stored data.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the diligence report comprises the information received relating to details of the legal exposure and actions taken responsive to the risk quotient.
5. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action is additionally responsive to the information received.
6. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested actions are directed towards reducing risk related to [litigation] a legal action.
7. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises commencing a litigation.
8. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises entering arbitration.
9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the suggested action comprises settling a legal action [claim].
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the information received comprises the identities of parties [named in a litigation] to a legal action.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information received comprises venue for a legal action.

12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information received is gathered electronically.

13. (original) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of aggregating risk quotients relating to an entity and assessing a level of risk related to legal actions to which the entity is exposed.

14. (original) The method of claim 13 additionally comprising the step of calculating an average risk quotient associated with an entity.

15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the legal action comprises a class action suit.

16. (currently amended) A computerized system for managing risk associated with a legal action, the system comprising:

a computer server accessible with a network access device via a communications network; and executable software stored on the server and executable on demand, the software operative with the server to cause the system to: gather data relating to a person's involvement in a legal action; receive information relating to the person's status in the legal action; receive information relating to details of [a] the legal action; structure the information received according to risk quotient criteria [assessment factors]; [and assign a risk value to the information structured as risk assessment factors; weigh the risk factors according to relative importance;] and [calculate] generate a risk quotient with a computer processor operatively attached to the computer storage, said quotient comprising at least one of:

a scaled numeric value and a scaled alphanumeric value based upon [the weighted risk factors and the risk value] the structured information related to a legal action and the gathered data.

17. (original) The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the information is received via an electronic feed.

18. (original) The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a personal computer.

19. (original) The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a wireless handheld device.

20. (currently amended) Computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium, the program code comprising instructions for causing the computer to: gather data relating to a person's involvement in a legal action; receive information relating to the person's status to a legal action; receive information relating to details of [a] the legal action; structure the information received according to risk quotient criteria [assessment factors]; [and assign a risk value to the information structured as risk assessment factors; weight the risk factors according to relative importance;] and [calculate] generate a risk quotient with a computer processor operatively attached to the computer storage, the risk quotient comprising at least one of:

a scaled numeric value and a scaled alphanumeric value based upon the [weighted risk factors and the risk value] structured information related to a legal action and the gathered data.

21. (currently amended) A propagated computer data signal embodied in a [digital data stream] transmission medium and transmitted via a communication network, said signal

comprising [data relating to legal action risk management and] a plurality of instructions for managing data relating to legal action risk, said instructions configured to cause a computer processor to:[, wherein the computer data signal is generated by a method comprising the steps of:] transmit gathered data through the transmission medium relating to a person's involvement in a legal action; receive information relating to a person's status in a legal action, receive[ing] information relating to details of [a] the legal action; structure[ing] the information received according to risk quotient criteria [assessment factors]; [assigning a risk value to the information structured as risk assessment factors; weighting the risk factors according to relative importance;] and [calculating] generate a risk quotient with a computer processor operatively attached to the computer storage, the risk quotient comprising at least on of:

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a scaled numeric value and a scaled alphanumeric value based upon the [weighted risk factors and the risk value] structured information related to the legal action and the gathered data.

22. (original) A method of interacting with a network access device so as to manage risk relating to a legal action, the method comprising the steps of: initiating interaction with a host computer on a communications network; transferring information relating to a legal action via a graphical user interface to an automated legal action risk management server; and receiving a risk quotient indicative of a level of risk associated with the legal action.

23. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein the risk quotient is a numerical value.

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24. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein a person involved in a legal action comprises at least one of a legal person or natural person, or a combination of both.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein a legal person additionally comprises a governmental entity.

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26. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the suggested action comprises appearing as an amicus of the court in a litigation.

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